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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,328	11/01/2001	Shahram Malek	11738.84217	3345
22908	7590	12/22/2005	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. TEN SOUTH WACKER DRIVE SUITE 3000 CHICAGO, IL 60606			GETZOW, SCOTT M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3762	

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,328

Applicant(s)

MALEK ET AL.

Examiner

Scott M. Getzow

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/9/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,3-9,11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haupt et al (6580948).

Col. 1, lines 20-59 of Haupt teach that stimulators and programmers can be linked together, where various types of data, such as ⁹⁵ device performance and historic data can be uplinked from a stimulator to a programmer. See also col. 3, lines 1-20. Although the embodiment shown in figure 1 of Haupt is that of an implanted stimulator, an equivalent structure is set forth. That is, the word 'external' in line 4 of applicant's claim 1 is considered to be intended use; where the stimulator is located does not change the basic structure of it. Also, the parameters uplinked to the programmer from the stimulator of Haupt are used, as is common, in providing final parameters to be downlinked to the stimulator. To make the parameters uplinked to the programmer 'final' is considered to be obvious in that it is up to the discretion of the operator to determine which is final or not. The uplinked parameters ~~are~~ could be final, or they could be further 'tweaked' by the operator.

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3. Claims 2,10,17-21,23-32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behan et al (5662691) in view of Hauptert et al (6580948).

Behan shows implantable and external stimulators, as well as a programmer.

The system allows for programming parameters from the programmer to the implanted device or the external stimulator, see abstract. However, the use of bidirectional communication between the external stimulator and the programmer is not fully set forth in the disclosure of the patent. Hauptert teaches uplinking of therapy parameters to the programmer for use in final programming of the stimulator. It would have been obvious to have such a feature with Behan for reasons mentioned supra and in col. 1, lines 35-58 of Hauptert. Further, the use of 'neural' stimulation is obvious in view of Hauptert, col. 1, line 29 that teaches nerve stimulators.

4. Claims 22,33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behan and Hauptert and further in view of Almendinger et al (6738670).

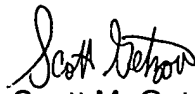
Almendinger shows the use of both patient and physician programmers, see figure 1. It would have been obvious to use both types of programmers with the combination of Behan and Hauptert in that by doing so better care is provided to the patient by letting the patient modify parameters at his own discretion, and which more closely provide the treatment needed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott M. Getzow whose telephone number is (571) 272-4946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Scott M. Getzow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762

SMG